(a) whether there is a plan to make new PRS at Ambali Road station situated at Ahmedabad-Viramgam rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These are provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload at Ambali Road railway station is not high enough to warrant this level of investment at present.

Railway projects in NER

4098. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail projects taken up by Government in the States of North Eastern Region particularly in Assam during the current year;

(b) the details and present status of such projects, project-wise; and

(c) the time by when such projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) New Guwahati-Digaru patch doubling (29.81 kms) has been included in budget, 2007-08 at a cost of Rs. 96.32 crore. The work would be taken up once Budget is passed.

(c) No target for completion of the project has been fixed.

Catering contracts

4099. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new catering contracts were given during last three years, all over the country;

(b) what method of selection was adopted; and